ansd 4/11/69

RICHARD WEAGLY
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ 901 Candlelight Place
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ La Jolla, Cal. 92037

April 3, 1969

Dear Gene and Sunny:

Spring is "bustin' out all over" out here; I have been wondering how it is up along your coastline! I have thought so often about you this year, but I suppose the holidays especially sharpen the memories of other Easters.

I haven't had the smallest twinge of "home-sickness" since coming here, but I believe that I do miss my conducting more at this time, especially during Lent and Holy Week, than at any time. Tho' the preparations were long and involved, the ST. MATTHEW PASSION and MESSIAH and the Faure REQUIEM, etc., etc. were such rewarding experiences and so much appreciated by the public, that I always found them exhilirating. Church music here is hardly worth mentioning, and last Sunday found THE PALMS the standard fare, and as I am still "un-churched" I am not attracted to the services anyhow. Anna had tried St. James-by-the-Sea, and two different Lutheran churches, but is very disillusioned. I have to attend morning Chapel at least four mornings a week, so that I remain in contact with the forms(?) of worship, and, for the moment, find this sufficient. I do quite a bit of reading still, and have been enjoying William Barclay's THE MIND OF ST. PAUL. I discovered this man while I was in London, and found him very helpful, and when I mentioned him to Jim I learned that they came from the same town or area of Scotland, and, I think, were about the same age. However, I was left with the impression that Jim was not too taken with him. Barclay is extremely well known over there, a good preacher, a broadcaster, and professor at Glasgow Univ. and has a great number of what I consider very useful paper-backs to offer. I feel sure I am telling you something about which you know a great deal more than I.

We have had an excellent winter, despite an unusual amount of rain, breaking a 78 year record, they say. Even so, we had nothing to compare with the terrible and disastrous floods up around Los Angeles. Our house sits on the side of a nicely secure little hill, overlooking the Pacific, and to the south the Mission Bay area, and we had no bad wash, at all. The streets and sewers are not really built to carry off the water, tho', and many days the streets were level with quite a lot of soil included. But, when we read about the snow and storms there, we felt more than fortunate to have made the decision to come here.

Anna is enjoying her job and seems to be liked, having received a $600.00 raise the first of the year and is hopefully looking forward to another during the summer. We have not had a sniffle, let alone the flu, and Anna's hay fever, or allergy, seems to have "gone with the wind". Sad to say, both of us have gotten heavier, but too many cocktails and peanuts seem to be the cause. I had thought that gardening might be just the chance I had been waiting for out here but our patio is cemented, and walled with a waist-high planter filled with things I don't need to touch except to water now and then.

My school seems to be ideal, and I am within 8 weeks of graduation and am surprised to see that I have made it through the year. I am on Spring vacation this week and have been trying to catch up with the stack of mail on my desk. My studio is in a new million-dollar building, airconditioned, with two Steinway grands, and since Christmas a Fischer-Garrard record playing out-fit. The Christmas carol service was fairly successful, but nothing like the ones I have been accustomed to. The Spring concert is due on May 14th, and we are singing some folk songs, some madrigals, a little Gilbert and Sullivan, and four songs of Richard Rodgers, which the girls like best of all. Teaching music appreciation is not very encouraging, since all they want to hear is rock and roll, but I have persevered and can only hope that some of the music has sunk in.

I had a good letter from Jim about two weeks ago, in which he tells me that Maud has had a very rough time of it this winter, having had a fall and spending some time in the Princeton hospital. He thought for awhile that she wouldn't recover, but she rallied and is back at Meadow Lakes. He spends almost all his time with her, but did say he was planning on preaching on the 23rd at Princeton Chapel, and if it went well might try more. He has given up his time on the air, at least for the time being.

I have had news off and on from Riverside and at last report it looks as tho' an explosion is brewing. Poor Pablo wrote me before Christmas asking if I could help save his job, as a committee had been formed to "investigate his character and philosophy", and Laubach had insisted that he resign, which he has refused to do. I wrote Jin asking what in the world were they trying to do to everyone, and wouldn't he or couldn't he do something. He replied that I should stay out of it, and that I could get myself into a lot of trouble. I was pretty blue about it all, once again, for it appears that no one cares sufficiently to really take a look at things. I suggested to Pablo that he seek legal advice, and he replied that he was fighting with all he had, and if they crucified him, he would not resign. Since then, Jim Lawson has written asking for help, and I have suggested the same, a lawyer. Jack Summerfield was fired, as was John Young, and Allan Fischer, and now Jim Farmer has supposedly resigned, and has told everyone he will leave the church permanently. A congregational meeting in February seemed to begin some investigation, at least, and I now hear that several members are demanding to know about Virgil's dismissal, my so-called "resignation" and the salary being paid me, why Lyon's salary was cut in half, and all the others, plus Cotto. Pablo told me that Jesse was the only one standing with him, and that he had been a tower of strength. Alice Stevenson, Gov. Edison's former secretary, was out here in Feb. and entertained us at dinner, during which she began to question me about Jesse's troubles, and she seemed to know lots more about it than I do. Once again, you may already know more about all of this than I have written above.

I didn't expect to ramble on at such length! I hope that both of you have been well and that you have had a good winter on the Cape. I have off from June 10th until Sept. 10th and have been trying to get a job with Brownell to guide in Europe this summer, but have had no word so far. If I don't get a job I may rob a bank and go alone, as Anna doesn't get a vacation until Sept. If you two ever decide to come out this way please let me know so that we can entertain you.

Have a "Happy Easter" and let us hear from you.

Love to both, Dick